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RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0970
RUEHKE/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 1364
RUEHLU/AMEMBASSY LUANDA PRIORITY 0951
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY 0420
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY 0774
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/16/2117
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [MOPS](#) [GV](#) [GB](#)
SUBJECT: TFGV01: GUINEA'S REQUEST FOR TEAR GAS--GABON DEMURS

REF: LIBREVILLE 00040

Classified By: Ambassador Barrie Walkley for reasons 1.4 b and d

11. (C) On February 15, Ali Bongo (Gabon's Minister of Defense) told Ambassador Walkley that Ibrahama Sory Soumah (Guinea's Ambassador to Gabon) had requested an urgent meeting earlier in the week to pursue again Guinea's request for tear gas and (according to Bongo) "associated equipment" (reftel). Soumah was surprised to hear from Ali Bongo that President Omar Bongo had not yet authorized the shipment of tear gas to Guinea. (FYI: Ali Bongo told Ambassador Walkley that he was not certain that President Bongo -- who has been out of the country for most of the last three weeks -- was aware of Guinea's request).

12. (C) Ali Bongo said that the tear gas and other materiel requested by Guinea had been obtained from France and could not be transferred to other countries without France's approval. Ali Bongo contacted the French Ambassador to determine if Guinea had requested tear gas directly from France; the French Ambassador said he was not aware of any request. Asked if he thought France would approve the transfer of Gabon's tear gas to Guinea, the French Ambassador indicated serious doubt.

13. (C) COMMENT: Gabon has not rejected the Guinean request, apparently preferring instead to stall indefinitely any decision on the matter.

WALKLEY